

JUN 17 1991

Mr. Edgar G. Kaup, P.E.
Case Manager
Bureau of Federal Case Management
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street, CN 028
Trenton, NJ 08625-0028

Re: Revised Baseline Risk Assessment Report for the L. E.
Carpenter Company (aka Dayco Corporation) Site in Wharton, NJ

Dear Mr. Kaup:

I have received a memorandum dated June 13, 1991 from Mark Maddaloni of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II Superfund risk assessment group (copy enclosed) commenting on the above-referenced report. The enclosed memorandum notes that the site related risks are, for the most part, detailed in a manner consistent with EPA's Risk Assessment Guidance for Superfund (RAGS). However, it also notes that a number of RAGS recommendations were not followed. Because RAGS recommendations are not mandatory and because there is no single right way to perform a risk assessment, not all of these comments necessarily require changes in the subject report. However, the enclosed comments should be considered in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's decision regarding acceptance of the subject report.

A comment which is of potentially great importance concerns the screening out of certain metals from the risk assessment because of high concentrations in background samples collected from or adjacent to the Washington Forge Pond. (See page 2-5 for listings of metals that were screened out of the risk assessment for various exposure pathways.) The information presented in Section 5.4.2.5 of the Revised Baseline Risk Assessment Report (see the June 10, 1991 submittal from Weston Services, Inc.) supports the theory that the elevated levels of metals on-site and in the vicinity of the site are due to the mining and ore processing activities conducted in this area. Since the levels of metals on-site and at the Washington Forge Pond appear to be due (at least in part) to mining and ore processing activities, it is reasonable to conclude that these levels do not represent natural background values. Although L.E. Carpenter & Company did not conduct mining activities, the company, as owner of the site, would be potentially liable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (CERCLA) for the remediation of the on-site metals contamination, if such remediation were performed pursuant to CERCLA.

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Risk information for these metals will be useful for determining the need for remedial action to address metals. Therefore, the screening out of metals from the risk assessment because of high concentrations in background samples is not recommended.

Please contact me at 212 264-8098 if you wish to discuss this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Jonathan Josephs, Project Manager
New Jersey Superfund Branch II
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

Enclosure

cc: M. Maddaloni, PSB